

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5 – YENLO HILLS

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit encompasses Yenlo Hills, Willow Mountain and the lowlands to the east of these mountains adjacent to the Lake Creek corridor. Yenlo Creek and major unnamed tributaries to Lake Creek that cross the unit are important anadromous fish streams. Large numbers of brown bear den around Mt. Yenlo, and moose densities are high throughout most of the area. The lowland areas are attractive for private recreational use. This unit will be managed to support a mixture of wildlife habitat, recreation and settlement.

There are no known mineral terranes in this management unit and few, if any, mining claims. Two stream corridors (Yenlo Creek and an unnamed tributary which encircles Mt. Yenlo and Willow Mountain to the north) will be closed to mineral entry to protect habitat values. All public lands in this unit are available for oil & gas leasing. The portions of Subunit 5a that will be offered for sale will be closed to mineral location and unavailable for coal leasing prior to sale. The remainder of Management Unit 5 will remain open to mineral location and available for coal leasing.

This unit has been divided into two subunits: Mt. Yenlo (5a), and the lowlands between the Yenlo Hills and Yentna River along Yenlo Creek (5b). See the map at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

Subunit 5a (Mt. Yenlo) will be retained in public ownership with a primary designation for wildlife habitat. The principal human use which occurs here is hunting.

Subunit 5b will be designated settlement, public recreation, and wildlife habitat, and managed to support a mixture of these uses. The northeastern edge of this unit borders the Lake Creek corridor, making portions of it desirable for recreational settlement. Fly-in access may be provided by the lakes in the north half of the unit. Land sales will be offered in portions of this subunit and will be designed to minimize the impacts on the wildlife migration corridors along Yenlo Creek and tributaries to Lake Creek. Forestry is a secondary use within this subunit. Timber harvesting for personal use will be allowed when consistent with the objectives for public and private recreation and habitat management.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the guidelines potentially apply to uses within this management unit; however, those that are most likely to be applicable are indicated with asterisks in the list below.

- Agriculture
- *Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- *Forestry
- Recreation
- *Settlement
- *Subsurface
- Transportation
- Instream Flow
- *Lakeshore Management
- *Public Access
- Remote Cabin Permits
- *Stream Corridors
- Trail Management
- Wetlands Management
- Resource Management

Management guidelines that apply to this management unit only are presented below by subunit.

Subunits 5a and 5b (Yenlo Hills and Lowlands)

Mining

A corridor ¼ mile wide on either side of Yenlo Creek and the unnamed tributary to Lake Creek which encircles the northern portions of Mt. Yenlo and Willow Mountain ending west of Shovel Lake, will be closed to mineral location to protect water-based public recreation (including recreation on Lake Creek), moose winter range, anadromous fish habitat and water quality.

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit fishing, camping, hunting and other active uses, and to protect water quality and riparian habitat. Consequently, this land should be retained in public ownership. Corridor widths will be set on a case-by-case basis using policies in Chapter 2. The buffer width should be at least 300' on each side of the Lake Creek tributaries shown on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic map and ¼ mile each side on Yenlo Creek. These wide buffers are intended to provide for the uses named above and protect riparian habitat, moose migration corridors and the natural setting along important tributaries to Lake Creek.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Sunflower Basin

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5 — Yenlo Hills

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5a Mt. Yenlo	State	Wildlife Habitat	Public Recreation	Open except along Yenlo Creek & unnamed tributary to Lake Creek (see mgmt. guidelines)	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Land Disposals Closed to grazing below 1,500' elevation	—
5b Yenlo Creek lowlands	State	Public Recreation Settlement Wildlife Habitat	Forestry	Settlement areas closed prior to disposal; Yenlo creek and unnamed tributary to Lake Creek closed (see mgmt. guidelines); remaining area open	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Grazing	Estimated net disposal area = 1,000 acres

*Other uses such as material sales, land leases, remote cabin permits, etc., that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement and management guidelines of this unit, and with the relevant management guidelines in chapter 2.

Trails

When land is conveyed, trail corridors will be identified and retained in public ownership between the Lake Creek corridor and the lakes in the north half of the unit, and between the lakes themselves.